



In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health is in very abbreviated form. All records are kept however, so that a comprehensive survey may be made of the health of the community during the war years.

As the Medical Officer of Health for St. Thomas Rural District was called up for war service before he could write his Annual Report, the Report has been compiled from all available data.

GENERAL HEALTH.

Except for an outbreak of Typhoid in January - February, the general health of the District remained good.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This service has been continued during the year. Following a mass immunisation of school children in the various schools, the local medical practitioners continue to treat any school children whom they find who have not been immunised, or who may be similarly discovered by the Health Visitor or by the Assistant County Medical Officer during his school visits.

The following figures are for the year 1942.

	Under 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs. & under 15 yrs.	Total.
Number of children who completed full course of immunisation.	335	193	528
Estimated percentage of children completely immunised.	51%	93%	

SCABIES.

Cases of scabies discovered in the Rural District were treated at the Scabies Centre, 33, Morton Road, Exmouth.

The children were kept in the building from 5 - 7 days and then returned to their homes.

Benzyl benzoate emulsion was used, and each child received two painting.

Cases complicated by impetigo were retained for a longer time, and were under the supervision of a general practitioner specially appointed for this duty.

The number of scabies cases treated during the year was 100. Included in this figure were 8 girls from the Forestry Branch of the Womens Land Army.

TUBERCULOSIS & VENEREAL DISEASES.

The supervision and treatment of these diseases is a service of the County Authorities, and is conducted at a Clinic in Exeter. There are no clinics in the Rural District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

43 cases of Typhoid (Type C) were reported in January and February from the Devon Western Mental Hospital. The origin of the outbreak was traced to a in-patient carrier.

Other infectious diseases did not show any material change in incidence from those notified during the previous year.

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED THROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR.

	1941	1942.
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>		
No. of Private House Drains connected with Sewers.	6	8
" " Drains repaired..	17	34
" " New Drains.	18	21
" " Slop Drains	1	8
" " New Sewers.	1	2
<u>FOOD.</u>		
No. of Seizures or Surrenders of Unsound Meat Fish, etc.	216	186
<u>HOUSES.</u>		
No. of New Houses erected.	3	4
" " Old Houses satisfactorily renovated..	62	101
" " Houses repaired and limewashed. ...	40	124
" " Premises inspected under the Public Act and Housing Acts.	2365	1896
<u>DISINFECTIONS.</u>		
No. of lots of Bedding and Clothing disinfected.	139	94
" " Houses disinfected.	119	80
" " Schools disinfected.	1	6
<u>OFFENSIVE TRADES.</u>		
No. of Offensive Trades.	1	1
" " " " improperly conducted.	0	0

	1941.	1942.
<u>NUISANCES.</u>		
No. of Complaints.	12	14
" " Notices issued for abatement of Nuisances.	6	53
" " Nuisances abated.	99	51
" " Complaints of Pigstyes....	2	4
" " Animals removed.	3	4
<u>CLOSETS.</u>		
No. of Privies converted into Earth Closets.	1	0
" " Conversions into Water Closets. ...	0	1
" " Cases insufficient Closet Accomodation.	15	12
" " Cases remedied.	18	12
<u>RAILWAY STATIONS.</u>		
No. of Visits.	16	21
<u>SCAVENGING.</u>		
No. of Refuse Heaps discovered injurious to Health.	4	5
" " Refuse Heaps remedied.	4	4
<u>BAKEHOUSES.</u>		
No. of Bakehouses.	45	45
" " Visits do.	57	68
" Found defective.	1	0
<u>DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.</u>		
No. of Dairies & Cowsheds.	670	679
" " Visits to Dairies & Cowsheds. ...	226	147
" " Improvements to Dairies & Cowsheds.	31	9
<u>SLAUGHTER HOUSES.</u>		
No. of Slaughter Houses.	32	32
" " Visits to Slaughter Houses. ...	720	650
" Found unsatisfactory.	0	0
" Improved.	0	0
" " Diseases Carcases found partly or wholly unfit for human consumption. ...	216	6

	1941.	1942.
<u>WATER SAMPLES.</u>		
No. of Samples of Water taken for analysis.	87	64
" Found Polluted. ...	20	14
" " Old Wells cleaned out, repaired. ...	7	10
" " New Houses certified for occupation with adequate water supply. ...	1	4
" " New wells sunk. ...	8	7
" " Villages with Public Supply. ...	15	16
" " Villages dependent on Wells & Springs.	32	31
" " Complaints as to Water Supply. ...	8	10
<u>MILK SAMPLES.</u>		
No. of Samples taken. ...	153	132
" " " passed. ...	67	71
" " " failed. ...	86	61
" " Designated Producers. ...	113	115

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